



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

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**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney  
Arnold H. Huftalen  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(603) 225-1552**

**COLORADO BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED IN COMPUTER FRAUD SCHEME**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Wayne Baskett, age 35, of Colorado Springs, CO, was sentenced by United States District Judge Joseph DiClerico to six months home confinement and a three-year term of probation for his role in a \$3.25 million dollar fraud scheme. Baskett was also ordered to pay \$3.25 million in restitution.

Mr. Baskett, who pleaded guilty to wire fraud charges last December, conspired with former Arizona business associates Todd Gillett and Troy Goins to fraudulently obtain several million dollars worth of computer equipment at significantly reduced prices by falsely representing that the equipment was being sold to General Electric, when in fact it was not. Gillett and Goins pleaded guilty earlier and were sentenced to federal prison terms for their roles in the crime. A fourth conspirator, Darren Franceski of Albany, NY, has also pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced in U.S. District Court in Concord on April 21, 2003.

Baskett, who the Court found to have played a minor role in the offense, admitted that he and his co-conspirators fraudulently obtained the computer equipment at reduced prices and caused the equipment to be shipped from Arizona to New Hampshire, where it was re-sold at inflated prices. Notwithstanding his minor role in the offense, the Court entered an order holding Baskett jointly and severally liable for \$3.25 million dollars in losses that were incurred by the Hewlett Packard Corporation (formerly Compaq Computer Corp.).

After the sentencing hearing U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono said: "This is the third businessman charged, convicted and sentenced in this fraud scheme. These prosecutions, and the restitution orders imposed by the Court, should send a clear message that anyone committing white collar crimes will be prosecuted vigorously in New Hampshire." This case was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold H. Huftalen.